



Bergenfield Public School District
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Program Benefits

When you register your students to participate in The Bear Den Life Skills Program, you will benefit from the extensive training and implementation experience Bergenfield Public School District has developed in the areas of person-centered planning, community-based instruction, structured learning experience, parent training, community partnerships, post-secondary experiences, life skills curriculum, Teach Town, and other online resources.



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THE BEAR DEN LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM



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Come Join Us

The Bergenfield Public School District (BPSD) invites you to join us at “The Bear Den.” Located in a fully-appointed home located on the Lincoln Elementary School property, the Bear Den Life Skills Program provides the opportunity for students with severe disabilities to practice daily living skills to increase their level of independence.



Background

The Bear Den began as an integral component of BPSD’s “Preparing Students with IEPs for Life in the Community, Integrated Employment, and Post-School Success (IEP for Life) Pilot Program.” This three year grant from the New Jersey Department of Education provided funding to promote positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities by establishing a model program for those aged 16 to 21.

BPSD is attaining this goal by implementing transition-focused services within the local community based on each student’s Individualized Education Program (IEP). As a result, the district is increasing the number of students with disabilities who are prepared for the transition from school to adult life.

The program is accomplishing this goal through person-centered planning; community-based instruction; and, systematic instruction during age-appropriate activities in the community, such as integrated, competitive employment, adult education classes including college courses, public transportation utilization, shopping, recreational activities with peers without disabilities, and facilitating linkages between students and adult service agencies such as the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities.



Features

The Bear Den is furnished to teach daily living skills. A fully functional, modern kitchen allows for meal preparation, with ample cabinets for storage. A bedroom is utilized to teach bed-making, clothing organization, and cleaning. A washer and dryer allow students to learn how to launder and fold clothing and sheets. A dining area functions as a station to practice setting, serving, and ordering meals.

In addition, the Bear Den is outfitted with technology to facilitate learning. Laptops are available for student use in conjunction with high-speed internet. The furnished living room features a 70” SmartBoard located near the kitchen for use in video modeling of cooking-related tasks. It also functions as a television and an interactive whiteboard for lesson delivery.